



**IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR THE CALIFORNIA BANK & TRUST GROWTH ACADEMY**

*Held in collaboration with NAWBO San Diego, 12 women business owners will get a complimentary opportunity to participate in the program, valued at \$1,500 per participant*

**SAN DIEGO – (March 6, 2024)** – [California Bank & Trust](#) (CB&T), one of California's leading banks, is opening applications for the CB&T Growth Academy, held in collaboration with the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) San Diego. The business growth accelerator program is designed to educate women on how to make a positive impact and build skills to benefit their communities and scale their businesses. Participants are guided through a nine-week virtual course led by Felena Hanson, president of NAWBO San Diego and founder of co-working space Hera Hub.

"Our partnership with CB&T will help us achieve our mission to support female entrepreneurs in building successful and impactful companies. San Diego is a dynamic county with so many driven and talented leaders, and we are excited to be a part of this ecosystem. We offer a unique blend of a strong business accelerator and a collaborative coworking community, which is why NAWBO has continued to thrive over the past few years," said Hanson.

The course guides the female entrepreneurs through the essential steps to growing their businesses. In addition to the formal instruction, the course will be used to brainstorm on ways to scale a business by receiving feedback, learning from industry experts, and building a community among the other like-minded entrepreneurs.

"Through our partnership with NAWBO San Diego, we continue to strengthen our efforts to provide women entrepreneurs with the tools to take their businesses to new heights, enabling them to build a support network and share ideas," said Chikako Tyler, chief financial officer and founder of the Banking on Women business resource group at CB&T. "We are thrilled that this partnership with NAWBO will empower many talented women to build upon their skills so they can best serve their communities and drive the economy forward."

To be eligible for this program participants must own their business for over two years, have at least one employee, generate \$200,000 in annual revenue and commit to two virtual hours per week to the academy. Applications for the CB&T Growth Academy are open now through April 5. For more information, or to apply, visit: [launchandgrow.org/calbank](https://launchandgrow.org/calbank)

To learn more about CB&T, please visit [www.calbanktrust.com](https://www.calbanktrust.com). Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

**About California Bank & Trust (CB&T):** CB&T has been helping Californians and their businesses grow and prosper for 70 years. A division of Zions Bancorporation, N.A. (NASDAQ: ZION), CB&T continues to earn recognition year after year across California. CB&T has been voted "Best Bank"



by readers of the San Diego Union-Tribune for 13 consecutive years, and “Best Commercial Bank” for 10 years in a row. Readers of The Orange County Register have also voted CB&T as the county’s “Best Bank” for 10 consecutive years; CB&T was also named a 2023 “Best Bank” in the Sacramento Bee’s Sacramento Favorites; and the bank has consistently won Greenwich Excellence Awards for achievement in Middle-Market and Small Business. Its experienced and professional bankers are backed by major resources yet maintain local decision-making authority and regional market and industry expertise. Each is committed to providing clients with valuable economic insights and connecting them with the beneficial business relationships they need in order to succeed.

**About NAWBO:** The National Association of Women Business Owners is a membership-based organization which supports women in the growth of their business through local, regional and national events, while also giving them a unified voice to help shape economic and public policy at the state and federal level.

NAWBO was formed when a group of business women came together to fight for the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ratified in 1974), which finally allowed women to open a credit card or take out a loan without a male cosigner. [www.NAWBO.org](http://www.NAWBO.org) & [www.NAWBOSanDiego.org](http://www.NAWBOSanDiego.org)

**Media Contact:**

Sarah Bilyeu

California Bank & Trust

[sarah.bilyeu@calbt.com](mailto:sarah.bilyeu@calbt.com)

(619) 252-9111